

Secondary educator lesson plan

English/IT: Road Safety Heroes

Lesson overview

The class will use computer skills to research local, national and/or international road safety heroes and construct a newspaper or magazine article to raise awareness of how they help to make roads safer and how others can be road safety heroes too.

Aim

To develop students' ability to research information on the Internet and use it to write informative and persuasive texts.

To produce a short newspaper or magazine article for a specific audience highlighting road safety heroes and how others can be a road safety hero too.

Preparation

Print copies of the Road Safety Heroes factsheet and Heroes posters to help students with ideas for who is a road safety hero.

Lesson outline

1. Working in groups ask the students to list who they think are road safety heroes. This could include certain professions, such as emergency services, organisations such as charities and advocacy groups, and individuals such as campaigners or road patrol students.
2. Ask the students to now list how they think the following groups can be road safety heroes:
 - a. Young people (e.g. not using a phone while walking, being a responsible passenger, wearing a helmet on a bike)
 - b. Parents of young children (e.g. making sure children are in a car seat, holding hands with them while walking)
 - c. Drivers (e.g. driving below speed limits, not using a phone at the wheel, not driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs)
3. Explain to the class that they are going to write an article for a newspaper or magazine about road safety heroes. This article will be aimed at other young people and will be constructed using information they can research online. The article should explain what a Road Safety Hero is, give some examples, and provide information about how young people can be heroes themselves.
4. Share any relevant information from the Road Safety Week action pack and other resources you have found. Students can also search for additional information on other road safety sites (it is best to direct them to road safety agency websites, to ensure the information they are getting is legitimate).
5. Once students have finished their research, discuss how they think information can be presented in a way to grab the readers' attention. This may include using bold headlines, presenting key information using bullet points, and including text boxes alongside the main content. Ask them to use these features to write their articles for the designated audience: young people. They could also find images to go alongside their article.

Extension

Get students to work in pairs to discuss and edit their articles, reflecting on how they could improve each other's work.

Follow-on activities

- Students' articles could be entered into a school competition, with prizes for the creators of the best written or most inspirational articles.
- Share the students' articles with other students and/or parents through a school newsletter or other school publication.

Websites for research:

www.brake.org.nz
www.roadsafetyweek.org.nz
www.nzta.govt.nz
www.sadd.org.nz
Local council website
Local media outlets